

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of November 29, 2004**

1. **Carroll Avenue Sidewalk Art Project (Ward 1):** The Arts & Humanities Committee for the Sidewalk Art project met to discuss the six proposals submitted. The submissions from the previous call for proposals were also reviewed. Each of the six proposals were discussed individually. Factors considered were: Artistic Merit, Ease of Maintenance, Feasibility, Ability to complete, community input, cost, and historic context. Based upon this basic criteria and input regarding maintenance from the City Engineer the group agreed to request meetings with three artists to further discuss their proposals. Adrian Baler, Silver Spring, MD, Todd Ray, Studio 27 Architecture, Washington, DC, and John & Lynne Hume, Sligo Creek Tile Co., Takoma Park, MD (submitted during the previous call for proposals). The interviews are being scheduled for the week of December 13, 2004. What made these three artists stand out above the other submissions was the ability of their projects to accommodate a variety of senses and various scales. These submissions also excelled in originality, creativity, and individual craftsmanship-- the combined factors under "Artistic merit." Their work will appeal to both pedestrians and vehicular passengers traveling along Carroll Avenue. (*Housing & Community Development*)
2. **Rental Facilities For Sale (Wards 3 and 5):** The City has been informed that the following rental properties are being sold: a) 6808 Westmoreland Avenue (Ward 3) - Two unit facility selling for \$375,000; b) 720-22 Erie Avenue (Ward 5) - Six unit facility that also includes 1 commercial space selling for \$928,000; and c) 8317 Eastridge Avenue (Ward 5) - Six unit facility selling for \$400,000. Letters have been sent to the tenants advising them of their rights under the City's Tenant Opportunity to Purchase ordinance, suggesting that they call the HCD office if they are interested in pursuing this option. (*Housing and Community Development*)
3. **Tenant Capacity Building Program - 8508-10 Flower Avenue (Ward 5):** The tenant association has reached an agreement with the prospective purchaser of this property in regard to one-year lease renewals for all current tenants. Additionally the purchaser agreed to address all the repair issues that the association brought to his attention. The tenants previously decided that purchase of the property would not be feasible due to the contract price (\$1,300,000). (*Housing and Community Development*)
4. **SHA Improvements to New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard (Ward 6):** Dennis German of the SHA Community Design Division has notified City staff that the public meeting tentatively scheduled to be held in early 2005 for this project has been canceled due to uncertainty about future funding for the project. He has, however, agreed to work with City staff and the Crossroads Pedestrian Safety Committee to explore alternatives to the median fence as well as alternative fence designs. (*Housing and Community Development*)
5. **Gateway/Wayfinding Advisory Committee (City Wide):** The Advisory Committee for the Gateway/Wayfinding project met on Thursday, December 2 to review

the latest designs for the sign system. For the most part, the Committee approved of the sign designs but there remain a few outstanding issues that will be finalized over the next several weeks. The outstanding design issues are the sign color, post design for the garden and historic identification signs, and the banner and secondary gateway designs. The State Highway Administration (SHA) has notified the City that they will require a certain arrow design and larger font size (6 inches instead of 4 inches) on directional signs on streets with speed limits of greater than 25 mph. The Committee decided that they would like for the City to ask SHA to grant the City exemptions to allow the City to use the chosen arrow design and 4 inch font size. (*Housing and Community Development*)

6. **Storm Water Installation (Ward 1):** The Maple Avenue Storm Water pipe installation will be completed within the next 1-3 days. We do not estimate that the City will be able to mill, pave, install speed humps and the raised intersection before the asphalt plants shut down. We do not want to partially complete the street and have the plants close for Winter. That could happen any day now and it is out of our control. Therefore, after storm water pipe installation is complete, the City will patch the street, collect the leaves, sweep the street and wait until Spring 2005 to repave. (*Public Works*)

7. **Central Avenue Paving (Ward 2):** The street base repair work has been completed on Central Avenue. Weather permitting, the final two inch surface coat will be applied on Monday, Dec. 6, 2004. (*Public Works*)

8. **Leaf Collection 2004 (All Wards):** There is one week left in the this year's leaf collection season. The City will have at least three collection crews working their routes on Saturday, December 4, 2004. Since the season began on Nov. 3, 2004 the City has used Saturdays to manage routine service requests and clean Old Town. (*Public Works*)

9. **Officers in Training:** Six officers attended training in CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) through the Mid Atlantic Regional Crime Prevention Institute. The investigative unit received training in a new online system for Regional Pawn Data Sharing, a COG initiative. (*Police*)

10. **Chief in a Meeting:** Chief Creamer met with Commander Hilton Burton of the Washington Metropolitan Police 4D. (*Police*)

11. **Officer in Citizens' Meeting (Wards 1 & 3):** Victor Sector Specialist Ofc. Smith walked with the WACO citizen patrol on Wednesday evening, to advise them on patrol techniques (Wards 1 & 3). She also was able to attend (briefly) the North Takoma citizen meeting (Ward 1) prior to the walk. (*Police*)

12. **Mini Crime Blotter:** Among arrests in the past week were two for possession of drugs, one for driving under the influence and one for possession of a stolen license plate. (*Police*)

13. **Birch Avenue Sledding Hill Petition (Ward 1):** The City Clerk has received a petition to designate the 7300 Block of Birch Avenue as a sledding hill for the 2004/2005 winter season. (*Office of the City Clerk*)

14. **Area 1 Permit Parking Request (Ward 1):** The City Clerk has received a petition to designate an additional section of the 600/700 blocks of Boston Avenue for permit parking. Staff is in the process of certifying the petition. (*Office of the City Clerk*)

15. **City Holiday Decorations (Ward 4):** Due to the construction activities at the Municipal Center, the City will not be installing holiday decorations on the City property this year. We will not be able to safely set up and light the menorah nor install lights on the large pine tree next to the Library. Regular streetlight decorations are being installed elsewhere in the community as usual. (*Community & Government Liaison*)

16. **Friends of the Library Book Raffle:** The Friends of the Library will host a promotional event and book raffle at the Farmer's Market in Old Town this Sunday December 5th. From 10AM - 2PM. In the past ten years, the Friends have contributed more than \$50,000 to the Library in equipment, services and wide-ranging programs. This event is an opportunity to learn about the Friends and become a member. (*Library*)

17. **Greenery Workshop:** On Tuesday December 7th. Karen Nelson Kent, our resident floral designer and instructor at Brookside Gardens, will hold a greenery workshop featuring "scented twig bundles" at the Library at 7:00 PM. Adults and older elementary age children may pre-register by calling 301-891-7259. Karen, who works at the Library, was recently accredited by the American Institute of Floral Designers. (*Library*)

18. **Winter Solstice:** On Thursday December 16 at 7:15 PM, the Library will celebrate the return of the sun to Takoma Park with its 14th. Annual Winter Solstice Celebration featuring Bill Jenkins and the Foggy Bottom Morris Men. Everyone is welcome at this evening of music and merry-making, and no pre-registration is required.. (*Library*)

19. **New Employee:** Wanda Hsiung joins our permanent Library staff as a shelver. Wanda also helps out at the circulation desk and creates bulletin board displays for the children's room. (*Library*)

20. **Senior Club:** The Senior Club was treated to a home-cooked Italian meal prepared by one of its own members, Pauline Millone, and her daughter Genny. The menu included spaghetti, meatballs, salad, dinner rolls, mixed beverages, and desserts. The Christmas and big band music set the stage for memories and conversation. During the course of three and a half hours we had approximately 15 to 20 people who enjoyed the dinner. (*Recreation*)

21. **Afternoon Addition:** The Afternoon Addition after school program completed the first cycle of swim lessons at the Piney Branch Pool in cooperation with the YMCA this past Wednesday. We are planning to run another session starting sometime in January and is available to all participants of the after school program. (*Recreation*)

